

REMARKS

Information Disclosure Statement

An Information Disclosure Statement is included with this application.

Claims Status

Claims 1-33 were originally filed in this application. Amendments to the claims were made to recite a subset of the originally filed claims, to correct typographical errors, and to further clarify the invention. Incorrect claim numbering was corrected by canceling claims 21-33 and adding new claims 34-38.

Written Opinion of the International Searching Authority

With regard to the Boyden (U.S. Patent No. 5,120,070) and Howard (U.S. Patent No. 5,178,088) references cited in the Written Opinion of the International Searching Authority, Boyden is a land craft, not a water craft, while Howard is pedal driven, and is not a sailing craft. There is no suggestion in either reference of how they might beneficially be combined to reach the claimed invention. For example, the Howard wheels have veins that go across the wheels that are said to be useful when the wheels provide propulsion (see Howard, Col. 4, lines 59-66). If the Howard vaned wheels were somehow installed in the Boyden adjustable windmobile, however, the veins would slow down the craft and might even stall it.

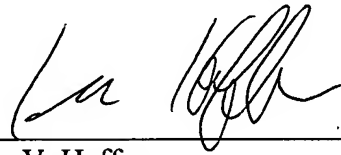
Claim 35 recites, in part, “a fin around the outside perimeter of the body” of the buoyant wheel. This is quite different from the Howard vaned wheels, which “have at their radial periphery vanes 68 which extend generally radially outwardly and curve counterclockwise...” Col. 4, lines 59-61. That is, the Howard vanes go across the wheels, not “around the outside perimeter of the body.”

Applicant notes that the Written Opinion indicated that claims 10, 13, 14, and 33 are patentable. For clarity of the record, the limitations of claim 13 were moved into current claim 12, as amended. New claim 34 is the claim referred to as 33 in the Written Opinion (originally misnumbered as claim 32), now rewritten in independent form, with some wording changes for clarity.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are now in condition for allowance. If, in the Examiner's opinion, a telephonic interview would expedite the favorable prosecution of the present application, the Applicants' attorney would welcome the opportunity to discuss any outstanding issues, and to work with the Examiner toward placing the application in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ira V. Heffan', is written over a horizontal line.

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